

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 9, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information
ORIGINATORS: A. McBeath, Department Head
RESOURCE
STAFF: Mavis Hagedorn

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #216, APRIL 17, 2000 (TRUSTEE FLEMING): PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT'S NON-SMOKING POLICY. The following information is being provided in response to a trustee request and as a year end summary of the implementation of the ban on tobacco use on district owned property.

As of May 2000, all sites are on schedule with full implementation having been achieved at all but two sites, which are both on target with the implementation schedules submitted. Therefore the main emphasis has been on educational programs and activities.

Educational programs designed to prevent tobacco use by youth and tobacco reduction and cessation programs for all ages have been a major focus this past year.

Capital Health staff, particularly school nurses and the capital health tobacco reduction consultant, continue to work closely with schools to implement programs and strategies for the prevention of tobacco addiction.

A Health Canada initiative, "Teaming up Against Tobacco", is featured for implementation in the fall. Health Canada, working in partnership with the University of Alberta, Capital Health, Alberta Medical Association, City of Edmonton, Edmonton Eskimos, Edmonton Drillers, Alberta Tobacco Reduction Alliance, AADAC, Canadian Heritage, Edmonton Catholic, and Edmonton Public Schools are implementing a program targeted at encouraging all grade six children in Edmonton to remain tobacco free.

This campaign has three primary components:

- **Teacher Resources:**
These resources will be designed to assist teachers in meeting the demands of integrating tobacco prevention information into the school curriculum.

- **Poster Contest:**
Each grade six class in all Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic schools will have an opportunity to create an anti-tobacco poster which encourages their peers not to smoke or to use tobacco. Six selected posters will be presented at halftime at the University of Alberta Golden Bears and Pandas games during national nonsmoking week. The three posters determined to be the best will be displayed at City Hall on Family Day 2001. A high-profile panel of judges will then determine the contest winner. Each of the three finalist posters will be displayed prominently throughout the city with the winning poster also being sent to each school for display.
- **School visits:**
All elementary schools in Edmonton will have the opportunity to have an athlete, artist, or professional visit and present an anti-tobacco message to students. Each grade six student will also receive a campaign T-shirt.

Edmonton Public Schools continues to address tobacco issues in a number of ways:

- Edmonton Public Schools remains an active member in the Alberta Tobacco Reduction Alliance.
- Capital Health Authority's smoking by-law campaign committee, chaired by Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. Predy is provided input through district representation.
- Edmonton Public Schools students continue to address tobacco issues through their participation in the Expecting Respect Program.
- Anecdotal information would indicate a significant reduction in tobacco use among staff. Staff have provided input and feedback regarding the most recently developed tobacco cessation programs.
- Students from Edmonton Public Schools continue to provide youth input to other organizations and levels of government as requested.

It is anticipated that other jurisdictions may follow the lead of Edmonton Public Schools in tobacco reduction endeavours and that a comprehensive community approach will add greatly in reducing youth tobacco use and the move towards elimination of this issue. (M. Hagedorn, 429-8319)

AMcB:hc